

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION CONFERENCE

Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, recently announced that a Regional Industrial Expansion Conference would be held in Montreal on November 8 and that senior representatives from about 60 companies in the province were expected to attend. Representatives for organized labour were also being invited, he said. The Conference would be sponsored jointly by the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of Industry and Commerce of the Province of Quebec.

This gathering will be the first of a series of meetings planned as a result of the National Industrial Expansion Conference held in Ottawa on September 7. At that time it was suggested that regional meetings should be organized in the main manufacturing centres of Canada so that smaller groups of businessmen could discuss ways of achieving greater production and procurement in Canada on a competitive and efficient basis.

SCOUT RADIO JAMBOREE

Over the weekend of October 19 to 21, Canadian Boy Scouts, aided by personnel from the Army's Royal Canadian Signals and civilian "ham" operators, were in voice communication with scouts from other countries in all parts of the world. The occasion was the fifth "Jamboree-on-the-Air", during which the amateur radio station VE 3 WSB (the last three call letters signifying World Scout Bureau) broadcast from Army Building B-47 at Connaught Ranges, outside Ottawa.

Part of the world Scout movement, VE 3 WSB is the international radio-station of the Bureau, which has its headquarters in Ottawa.

The fifth Jamboree involved well over 1,000 stations. The Canadian Army's Directorate of Signals and the Army Equipment Engineering Establishment supplied the technical "know-how", equipment and maintenance personnel. Gordon Grant of the National Research Council co-ordinated the operators from the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, whose membership included many serving soldiers.

Captain Steve Chisholm (VE 3 ATU), of the Directorate of Signals at Army Headquarters, co-ordinated the Army's function in this event, while Len Jarrett (VE 3 EWE), executive commissioner of the Boy Scout World Bureau, supervised all its scouting aspects.

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

The forest-fire hazard can be reduced by the use of fire where accumulation of logging slash on the forest floor poses a serious fire menace, according to a Canadian forest-protection expert.

Addressing the first meeting in Washington, D.C., of the Forest Fire Control Working Group of the North American Forestry Commission, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations, J.C. Macleod of Ottawa, associate director for fire research of the Department of Forestry's Forest Research Branch, recently made the following points:

1. Prescribed or controlled burning of logging slash, and the development and application of proper techniques for this purpose, should probably be expanded in Canada to remove the serious fire hazard from slash accumulations. This method of "using fire for our own purposes" to avoid possible future wild fires is a common practice only west of the Canadian Rockies. However, improved cutting practices and use or the application of chemicals to slash to speed up decay, might well be forthcoming before prescribed burning must be used as a last resort.

2. There is room for improvement and standardization in current practices for joint provincial action in forest-fire suppression, though the different conditions existing among the provinces make considerable variations inevitable.

3. The economics of forest-fire protection should be studied more closely, to determine how much should be spent on forest-fire control and how it should be spent to achieve the best results.

Mr. Macleod suggested that citizens should be encouraged to act as "watchdogs" over the forests. Fire-prevention campaigns could be opened "with thanks to those thousands who visited our forests and were careful with fire". "These thousands might then be asked to be on the lookout for the careless and mentally-deranged few who start fires", he added.

Mr. Macleod said the consciences of individuals, activated through "liberal doses of praise", could be a powerful weapon in forest-fire prevention.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The number of Canadian adults charged with indictable offences rose 13 per cent in 1960 to 39,343 from 34,812 the previous year, according to the annual report "Statistics of Criminal and Other Offences" issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Of the 39,343 persons charged, 90 per cent were convicted, 9 per cent were acquitted and the remaining 1 per cent resulted in other dispositions. Of those convicted, close to 50 per cent were sentenced to correctional institutions, 28 per cent were given suspended sentences and the remaining 22 per cent were fined.

Up to 52 per cent of the crimes for which persons were convicted were offences against property without violence, including thefts, breaking and entering and fraud. Close to 22 per cent were offences against property with violence and 14 per cent were offences against the person.

A total of 2,920,540 summary convictions were reported for 1960, an increase of 14.6 per cent over 1959. Parking violations accounted for 62.1 per cent of the grand total, while 2.8 per cent were under the Criminal Code, 1.0 per cent under federal statutes, 26.0 per cent under provincial statutes and the remaining 8.1 per cent under municipal by-laws.